Declaration of bench mark price for rubber

175. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V. V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the Bench Mark price rates fixed by the Central Government for the various grades of natural rubber;

(b) how far it has helped to keep up the market price to this level during this period after the declaration of the bench mark price rates; and

(c) whether Government have taken steps to purchase the natural rubber at the rates declared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) The Bench Mark Prices for Natural Rubber were last revised on 28.9.1998 and fixed at Rs. 3405 per quintal and Rs. 3355 per quintal for RSS-4 and RSS-5 grades respectively.

(b) Since the declaration of the Bench Mark Prices in September, 1998, the prices of RSS-4 and RSS-5 grades in general had remained below bench mark level except during June, 1999 and in August, 2001.

(c) In order to stabilise the price of Natural Rubber and to ensure reasonable price to the growers for their produce, the Government of India had made a market intervention during 1997—2001 through STC and procured around 53687 MT of Natural Rubber at the prevailing market price. This procurement was, however, largely linked to the supply of Natural Rubber from domestic source to the Advance Licence Holders to ensure that they get the raw material at the international rate for fulfilment of their export commitments.

Impact of new FDI proposals on indigenous industry

176. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Foreign Direct Investment proposals cleared by Government during the last two years;

(b) the details of Foreign Direct Investment proposals for the next year; and

(c) whether Government have kept in mind the problems the indigenous

industry will face, if so,the details thereof togetherwith estimated loss to the industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) During the last two years (from 1.1.99 to 30.9.2001), a total number of 4900 FDI proposals involving FDI amounting to Rs. 87994.41 crore have been approved.

(b) Consideration of FDI proposals is an ongoing process and there is no fixed year-wise target for receiving FDI.

(c) FDI also helps in enhancing domestic industry competitiveness by way of technology transfer, linkages with domestic suppliers, etc.

Reaction to WTO Draft Declaration

177. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have studied the W.T.O. Draft Ministerial Declaration (DMD) and the Draft Decision on Implementation-Related Issues (DDI) circulated recently to member countries for considertion by the Trade Ministers at Doha, reportedly sending green signal for the launch of a comprehensive new round of world negotiations;

(b) if so, the reaction to the Drafts;

(c) how far the implementation concern of India and other developing countries opposing a new round have been taken care of; and

(d) the fresh salvage strategy formulated, if any, in the emerging scenario?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) The Doha Drafts (DMD & DDI) were analysed and modifications were suggested to the WTO and at the Sessions at Doha. The drafts were also discussed by the Ministers at the Ministerial Conference. The Doha Declaration takes into account a number of concerns of India. These include important issues liked greater market access for agricultural products for developing countries through reduction of export subsidies and trade distorting domestic support given by developed countries, food security and rural development concerns of developing countries in agriculture negotiations, addressing the issue related to extension of protection of geographical indications to products other than wines and spirits, protection